

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

Virginia Polytechnic Institute &
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Cooperating

EXTENSION SERVICE
County Agent Work

PLAN OF WORK

COUNTY Nansemond

YEAR 1959

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Local Farm Agent

Date Mailed Dec 16, 1958

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Nansemond County is situated in the extreme southeastern part of Tidewater, Virginia. There are 436 Negro farm operators engaged in field crops and livestock farming. The number of operators in 1950 was 507, which indicates a decrease of 71 during the past eight years. In 1956, there were 195 Negro farm owners. In 1950, Nansemond's population was 25,238, of which 63.5 percent were Negroes.

There were 1472 farms in the county in 1950, averaging 101.9 acres each with land and buildings valued at an average of \$9,729. The farm population was 7,281, making up 28.8 percent of the total for the county.

Sales from crops make up 70.7 percent of the total value of farm products sold while livestock products accounted for 27.8 percent.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

The County Board of Supervisors is the legal organization that heads up the County's Agricultural Extension Program.

The Advisory Board, Agronomy Committee, Forestry Committee, and the 4-H Junior Council consists of local men, women, boys and girls which are responsible primarily for setting up, planning and conducting the Extension work in the county.

The County Advisory Board sponsors a County-wide Farmers Conference, represents at the State Farm and Home Week, sets up the Community Improvement Work, selects Farm and Home Development families and assists with the Annual Tidewater Fair. There are 45 leaders on this board and it meets three times a year.

The Agronomy Committee is composed of six members which are rotated each year with the two older position members being discharged and two new

members being added. A survey of Agronomy problems is made and the most important ones form a bench mark for action. This committee also assists with the selection of result enterprise demonstrators.

The Forestry Committee of three members was selected to carry forestry practices. Forestry management methods and result demonstrations are planned and carried out.

The 4-H Junior Council is composed of all officers from the 12 4-H Clubs in the county. This council holds training meetings and assists in sponsoring 4-H Club activities.

Other activities sponsored by community groups are carried out through local community club meetings and demonstrations.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS

1. The need for short and long-time farm and home plans for small operators who have one or more family members employed off the farm.
2. The need for better diversified farm enterprises to subsidize income lost from cash crops effected by the acreage allotment control program.
3. The need for better distribution of farm income between the farm and home units and the elimination of "money leakage."
4. The need for better care of farm machinery and improved housing for animals and equipment.
5. Special emphasis need on the value of quality as well as quantity of produce. An increase in premiums for good farm products at the annual Tidewater Fair would encourage this improvement.
6. Improved and increased livestock needed with emphasis on top grade animals.

7. Increase pasture acreage needed for livestock on hand and in some cases, more livestock and pasture needed.
8. Better records should be kept to determine the successes and failures of the farm business.
9. Need for better arrangement with the Fair Association for the Junior Livestock Show and Sale.
10. Desire for community farm meetings to work out problems related to special areas. (Two locations will be arranged for such meetings.)

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

PEANUTS

The county ranks third in the state in peanut production and 21st in the nation. (U. S. Census 1950.) Total peanut production was up an estimated 24% in 1958 over 1957, being the largest crop since 1950. Prices to farmers are expected to average near loan value which is a little lower than last year.

The goal is to establish ten peanut demonstrations in production methods and one demonstration in chemical weed control.

Two demonstrators will be selected in each of the five magisterial districts in the county. Farm visits will be made to give information and assist with soil tests, spacing, fertilizing, and cultivation. Peanut problems will be discussed in the Agronomy Committee meetings. Slides will be obtained and shown at two different localities. Assistance will be given L. E. Boykins of Holland Community in obtaining and applying chemicals for weed control.

CORN

The county ranks second in the state in raising hogs and acres of

corn to be harvested. (U. S. Census - 1950.) Corn is sold commercially in the county, but there is no acreage allotment control. (The County Advisory Board collected and sold a bushel of corn per family to raise funds to sponsor their activities in 1958.)

The goal is to further the interest in increasing corn yields in the county and to conduct six 100 bushel corn demonstrations. It is also desired to have one bushel exhibits at the Annual Fair.

Demonstrators will be selected through the Agronomy Committee and through farm visits. Assistance will be given in seed selection, fertilizing, rate of planting, cultivation, top-dressing and measuring for yields. The best demonstration will be visited on a tour. Liquid nitrogen demonstration will be continued for the third year by Robert Langston of Whaleyville community.

PASTURE

Pasture acreage is being increased and lime applied when the Ph is below 6.0. The number of soil tests made for pasture improvement has greatly increased during the past year.

Soil test will be made for all new pastures with the hope of getting farmers conscious of the value of proper fertilizing for good pasture growth. One additional pasture will be established in each of the five magisterial districts in the county. The Agronomy Committee will assist with the location of these pastures. Farm visits, field meetings, and distribution of literature will be used to assist in conducting the demonstrations.

The previously sponsored Plant Food Institute demonstration conducted by Issac Demiel of Lummis community for the past four years will be continued. Soil samples will be taken and a split application of recommended fertilizer

will be applied. Mr. Demiel has agreed to make his own purchase of the fertilizer for the demonstration.

COTTON

The county's cotton acreage has declined from 7,700 acres in 1931 to 1,407 acres in 1954. This decline has been gradual over the entire period and the yield per acre has greatly increased during this same period. There is a cotton acreage allotment on the farms where cotton is grown.

Work will be continued with cotton producers to obtain increased staple length and insect control. Farm visits will be made to stress proper spacing, fertilizing, and the side-dressing with nitrogen and potash.

SOYBEANS

The production of soybeans in the county has doubled since 1940. The yield per acre has remained relatively stable. "The 1958 substantial increase in production of 20 percent, soybean prices during the 58-59 marketing year are not likely to exceed the loan rate substantially. Even with some increase in total demand, carry over stocks on 1 October 59 are expected to be well above this year." (The Economic Analyst - 1959)

Two soybeans demonstrations will be conducted in the eastern section of the county for commercial purposes. The practice of seeding soybeans and corn for hogging down purposes will be stressed with large swine producers.

ALFALFA

Alfalfa for hay comprises 81 acres in comparison to 1951 acres devoted to all-hay production in the county. One demonstration will be continued. Emphasis will be placed upon improvement of stand.

LIVESTOCK

SWINE

Swine production in the county is a major source of farm income. The Economic Analyst for 1959 states, "The years 1959 and 1960 do not look good for hog prices. Farmers have indicated that they planned to have 13 percent more sows farrowed this fall. This means an increase of about 14 percent more pigs than last fall. It is likely that the prices of hogs will decline substantially next fall, when they will probably be lowest since the fall of 1955."

Seven demonstrations will be carried in proper feeding and management practices. Stress will be placed upon early farrowing and marketing which indicates a relative advantage over late pigs.

Emphasis will be placed upon improvement of herds during farm visits, meetings, showing of posters, and attendance at local breeding stock sales.

BEEF CATTLE

There were 4,400 cattle in the county in 1954 of which 2,300 were beef animals. The number of cattle indicates an upward trend since 1948 and is the highest point on record.

One beef cattle demonstration will be continued with 15 animals. (One beef cattle demonstrator of 15 animals last year sold his herd in preference to raising sheep. The demonstrator was L. M. Folk of Skeetertown.)

Stress will be placed on pasture management and marketing outlook.

DAIRY CATTLE

Milk cows have been on the decline in recent years, but the milk production per animal has increased. Many families do not produce milk to supply the family need. With the increase in off farm employment, attempt

will be made to include the milk cow in the farm plan of part-time farmers, along with chickens, garden and food preservation.

SHEEP

"The Agricultural Act of 1958 provides for extension of the wool incentive program from March 31, 1959 to March 31, 1962, and makes more funds available for payment." The Economic Analyst - 1959.

A shorn wool incentive price of 62 cents was announced for the 1959 marketing year.

Work will be continued with L. K. Boykins who has established a herd and is pleased with the results. L. M. Folk is beginning in the enterprise and assistance will be given in management practices.

POULTRY

The production of poultry for home consumption and market purposes has shown an increase in the past four years. More families should produce more home flocks for family needs.

Seven poultry demonstrations will be continued this year. These demonstrations were started with assistance of Extension Poultryman, A. L. Deane, in 1951. Production records and progress scoring has indicated a steady increase in size of flocks and improved management practices.

Attempts will be made to add two additional demonstrators and management stressed through farm visits, radio broadcasts, meetings, circulars and a result tour.

FORESTRY

Farmers are becoming more and more aware of the value of tree-farming as a source of income. Through proper management and fore-sight, this is an item of value to leave the coming generations.

Attempts will be made to establish two 4-H pine-seedling demonstrations. Last year the seedlings were ordered but the supply was unavailable.

The present demonstrations will be continued and plans for at least one field meeting for informational purposes.

FARM AND HOME UNIT DEMONSTRATION

A farm and home unit demonstrator is a selected family in the county that participates in the Extension program from several angles. This participation involves a farmer, home-maker, 4-H boys and girls, in one family. The Boykins have served in this capacity since 1945 and have done an excellent job.

The family budget has been arranged to install a bath in 1959. Special work will be done with the 4-H boys in their sweet potato chain started in 1958. Mr. Boykins has 69 pigs that were born in October, in an Extension planned hog house. Seven sows gave birth to litters during October.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT WORK

Work will be continued with the 90 families in the demonstration community during 1959. Plans will be made at the January meeting as to the major community project to be worked out, also to decide how the \$10.00 third place prize is to be spent. Purchase of small packages of garden seeds or enough paint for families' mail boxes are two suggestions. Attempts will be made to have a community picnic sometime during July.

Special emphasis will be placed on improving farm production, increase family food supply, outside and inside home improvement, family clothing, and participation in community organizations. Special assistance will be implemented to assist part-time farm families with an on and off farm plan.

This will enable them to receive maximum returns from their available resources. Home gardens, commercial poultry flocks, and one or two acre truck crop enterprises will be established as time and resources permit.

FARM AND HOME DEVELOPMENT

Nine families were continued in the Farm and Home Development program at the beginning of 1958. Six of these families have shown progress of development under the farm and home unit approach. The other three have made improvements in their homes, but due to lack of resources of land, machinery and livestock, are relying on their job income for their present and future livelihood. Exerted efforts will be made with the six families with farm and home development resources and assistance will be given the other three as resources present a degree of assistance needed. There are no plans to add additional families this year or to drop any families now enrolled.

4-H CLUB WORK

There are 398 boys and 414 girls enrolled in 12 4-H Clubs in the county. These clubs meet for one hour, once a month during school hours. This year most of the small clubs will carry club projects which are selected according to the interest of the majority of the members. Additional individual projects are selected by some older members which can be conducted at home.

A 4-H Club Day is planned for April at which time each club will have a display area in the training school's auditorium to display their club project work and any individual project work that can be displayed. It is desired that every member will have a hand in making their displays.

SPECIAL 4-H CLUB PROJECTS

SWEET POTATO SHOW AND SALE

The five 4-H boys who received certified plants donated by the Farmers Bank of Nansemond will give seed potatoes from their hill selection to 10 other boys. Each of the 15 boys will be expected to exhibit one bushel each at the Tidewater Fair and three bushels each at the Newport News Show and Sale provided buyers cannot be obtained for a local Show and Sale. (The Tidewater Fair is held too early for the potatoes to be dug for a sale, as peanuts are being harvested at that time.)

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE

Participation of Nansemond 4-H and NFA boys in the Junior Livestock Show and Sale was negative during 1958. This can be attributed to a conflicting circumstance brought on by the Tidewater Fair Association which stated that all animals had to remain at the Fair grounds for the entire week to receive premiums. This was rendered undesirable because of inadequate housing facilities, mortality possibilities without insurance coverage, and the loss of weight between the sale and delivery to buyers. A one-day show, sale and delivery was held at the Fair after sponsoring funds were obtained from donations.

Plans are in motion for arrangements to comply with the request to keep the sale animals at the Fair for a week or to seek other sources of relief. Plans will be made during the early part of the year. Efforts will be made to have full participation in 1959.

COUNTY-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Advisory Board Meeting-----	January
Farmers' Conference-----	February
Pasture Field Meeting-----	March
National 4-H Club Week-----	March
Advisory Board Meeting-----	April
County 4-H Day-----	April
4-H Rural Life Sunday-----	May
County Advisory Board Meeting-----	July
County Tour-----	July
Tidewater Fair and Sweet Potato Show-----	October
4-H and NFA Livestock Show and Sale-----	October

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Mr. Milton Brown.....	Farmers' Conference-----	February
Mr. M. T. Carter.....	County Tour-----	July
Miss Heidi E. Ford.....	County 4-H Day-----	April
Mr. S. E. Marshall.....	Livestock Show	
	Sweet Potato Show-----	October
State College Judges.....	Tidewater Fair-----	October

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

MONTH

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Board Planning Meeting Improvement Community Club planning meeting Farm and Home Development Planning Soil samples for pasture demonstrations Farm visits to assist with crop rotation plans Attend 4-H meetings Tape-record 4-minute semi-monthly radio broadcasts Obtain camera and begin collection of series of slides
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers' Conference - Little Mt. Zion Church Agronomy Committee meeting Agronomy circulars to farmers Farm visits - pasture demonstrations for top-dressing Complete 4-H enrollment sheets Farm visits - corn demonstrators for soil samples Work with 4-H projects for Club Day Displays Tape-record 4-minute semi-monthly radio broadcasts

March	Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper Pasture Field Meeting - Lummi Community Assist farmers with cotton and peanut demonstrations Plan National 4-H Week Observance Check on project displays for 4-H Day Follow up swine projects Tape-record 4-minute radio broadcasts
April	County 4-H Club Day - Nansemond Training School Follow up sweet potato projects Collect slides of demonstrations in progress Assist 4-H members with poultry projects
May	Observance of 4-H Rural Life Sunday Select delegates to the State 4-H Short Course Follow up field crop demonstrations Stress improved poultry management Plan 4-H Club summer project work Tape-record 4-minute radio broadcasts
June	Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper Send delegates to the State 4-H Short Course Visit 4-H members' home projects Plans for County Tour Farm visits of corn demonstrations Tape-record 4-minute semi-monthly radio broadcasts
July	County Tour Obtain delegates for 4-H Wildlife Conference Planning meeting for Swine Show and Sale Tape-record 4-minute semi-monthly radio broadcasts ANNUAL LEAVE
August	Holland Experiment Station meeting Send delegates to Wildlife Conference Check community improvement progress Community Improvement Club picnic Visit 4-H members home projects Tape-record 4-minute radio broadcasts
September	Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper Attend State Advisory Board meeting Follow up 4-H Swine and Sweet potato projects Check 4-H Club work for possible awards Plan for Fair and 4-H Show and Sale Stress seeding of grass and shrubbery Collect pictures for slides of demonstrations

October	Obtaining exhibits for Tidewater Fair Work with 4-H Swine and Sweet Potato Shows Annual Agents Conference Score community improvement work Tape-record 4-minute semi-monthly radio broadcasts
November	Compile annual reports Compile 4-H records Attend 4-H Club meetings Tape-record 4-minute semi-monthly radio broadcasts
December	Make plan of work Plan forestry demonstration Check Farm and Home Development families' goals Prepare Extension Quarterly Newspaper (Summary copy)